



San Pasqual Academy

Home of the Mighty Dragons!

Bulletin

As of February 28, 2006, 130 youth are living and studying at the Academy. School Days...

- ♦ Led by Supervisors Greg Cox and Ron Roberts, the County of San Diego's Board of Supervisors proclaimed January 24th "San Pasqual Academy Dragons Football Team Day" throughout the County. The Dragons football team finished the 2005 season as repeat Citrus League champions, defeating other teams to claim the Academy's first San Diego Section CIF 8-Man Football Championship title. They entered the eight-man playoffs with an overall record of 9 and 1 and a league record of 5 and 0, outscoring their 2005 opponents 430 to 86. Great job, Dragons!
- ♦ The Interact Club continues to meet twice a month, planning community service projects.
- ♦ Senior Projects #2 and #3 were due in January, in preparation for graduation in June.
- ♦ Basketball season is coming to a close! The Boys' Varsity Basketball team faced the Escondido Adventist Academy on February 28th, in the CIF San Diego Division V Playoffs. The Dragons' won, 76-66, and are headed to the championship bracket. They will face Santa Fe Christian on March 4th at the Jenny Craig Pavilion at the University of San Diego for the league title.
- ♦ Twenty-three students attended the College Connection event at Palomar College on February 10th to learn more about the community college, the courses offered, and the support services available to students.
- ♦ On February 15th, the Academy's art class participated in a workshop led by renowned glass artist, Therman Statom, and created portraits of one another. Mr. Statom has previously visited the art class on campus to teach drawing and painting. Academy students' art will be displayed as part of Mr. Statom's exhibition, "Through the Looking Glass," at the museum of the California Center for the Arts, in Escondido. The show will run from March 17th to July 2nd.
- ♦ San Pasqual Academy students were recognized for their academic achievements during the 2nd quarter Academic Awards Ceremony held on February 15th. Students were recognized for outstanding citizenship, high grade point average, leadership, and overall improvement.
- ♦ San Francisco 49'ers quarterback and the 2005 NFL first draft pick, Alex Smith, addressed students on February 24th in the auditorium. He spoke to them about overcoming obstacles, working hard, and his experiences playing in the NFL. He asked the students for their ideas on designing a foundation for foster youth. His visit with the students was a big hit!
- ♦ Academy students attended peer mentor training at Camp Fox in the San Diego Mountains the weekend of February 25th. Academy peer mentors led many of the training segments, demonstrating various communication theories to the camp attendees. Kudos to Leroy D., Kristen F., and CeCe O. for leading the way!

WHAT'S NEW

- ♦ The Escondido Downtown Rotary honored Academy students, CeCe O. and Michael L., as Outstanding Students of the Quarter in February 21st. Both students attended the Rotary meeting and received a framed plaque, a certificate of outstanding achievement and a \$25 gift card to Target. Way to go, CeCe and Michael!
- ♦ The San Pasqual Academy Interact Club, a service club for young people ages 14-18, is wasting no time to initiate community service projects on campus. Sponsored by the Rancho Santa Fe Rotary Club, the Interact Club is kicking off a recycling program on campus to do their part to conserve precious environmental resources. Recycling bins are placed in each of the classrooms to collect glass bottles and aluminum cans. The funds generated from recycling these items will fund future Interact Club activities. The Academy Interact Club received its official charter from Rotary Interact International on February 23rd in the auditorium.

Residential Info...

- ♦ On January 7th, four girls and staff enjoyed ice-skating; three boys and staff had a great morning fishing at Lake Poway; and four girls and staff went roller-skating.
- ♦ Eight students and two staff spent the afternoon of January 8th in Julian, enjoying apple pie and the slow pace of a small town.
- ♦ Eight students and their houseparent had an evening of fun and laughs bowling at the Rock'n Bowl in Vista on January 13th.
- ♦ On January 14, three students and staff went roller-skating for the evening.
- ♦ Six boys and their houseparents went to Laguna Mountain for an evening hike and Smores-making on January 16th.
- ♦ On January 17th, one student attended sixth-grade camp with his school at Camp Fox for four days.
- ♦ Forty students and five staff were thrilled by the trucks at the Monster Truck Show at Qualcomm Stadium on January 21st.
- ♦ Two students attended a dance at their middle school on January 27th.
- ♦ On January 28th, staff took four students to Boomers! Fun Center for an evening of fun.
- ♦ Skating continued to be a popular activity for the students in February! Eight students had fun ice skating at the Iceoplex in Escondido on February 4th and eleven students enjoyed the ice on February 18th. Roller skating ranked right up there on the entertainment list, as six students went to Roll-Arena in Escondido on February 4th and five students skated the night away on February 18th! Roller Skate Land in Santee was the venue for four students who took to the rink on February 25th.
- ♦ On February 5th, students gathered to watch the Big Game! A Super Bowl party, featuring appetizers, pizza and soda, was held on campus as students watched the Pittsburgh Steelers defeat the Seattle Seahawks.
- ♦ While some of the students rooted for their favorite NFL team, two students and their houseparents went to Disneyland on February 5th, as a reward for taking care of all their responsibilities in their home.
- ♦ Seven students and their houseparents went horseback riding on February 12th. Several of the students had never been horseback riding before and they had a blast!
- ♦ One student, Chris D., went to Sea World for a sixth grade field trip on February 15th.
- ♦ On February 16th, eight students and staff watched the amazing feats of a Canadian-based circus troupe in the Cirque du Soleil performance of Quidam at the Del Mar Fairgrounds.
- ♦ Four students and staff enjoyed a long, fun bike ride on the trails of Mission Beach on February 18th.
- ♦ Five students and staff enjoyed an evening of laughs as they bowled at the Mira Mesa Lanes.
- ♦ Hiking in Anza-Borrego State Park was the activity of choice for four students and staff on February 20th. The students completed the hike with a hot dog barbeque.
- ♦ On February 21st, the students filled the bleachers in the Academy's gym, as they cheered on the Boys Varsity Basketball team in their playoff game.
- ♦ On February 24th, thirty-seven students and staff traveled by bus to watch the Dragons' Varsity Basketball Team defeat Tri-City Christian, in quarterfinals play, while five students and staff went to see the pop punk band, Mest, perform at SOMA in San Diego.
- ♦ On February 25th, five students and staff strolled through Balboa Park for the afternoon, and then rested their feet during a showing of Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire at the IMAX theatre.

Work Readiness and Self Sufficiency...

- ♦ Twenty-five students are working on and off campus in internships and paid employment.
- ♦ Every Wednesday in January and February, Mrs. Jackie Taylor with the Youth Empowerment Services (YES) Program offered Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) workshops to assist all seniors in completing the applications and submitting them by the March 2nd deadline. Job search and scholarship workshops were also offered to students every Wednesday.
- ♦ On January 9th, Luanne Lee, a business consultant, discussed the world of work with the Career and Life Skills Planning students in the Tech Center. Ms. Lee previously worked in the Human Resources field and gave the students information on employer expectations. She returned to the Tech Center on January 26th and students had an opportunity to practice their interviewing skills with her and to obtain feedback and advice.
- ♦ Kenny Goldberg, of KPBS Radio, met with the Career and Life Skills Planning class at the Tech Center on January 23rd and talked about what it takes to be a radio journalist and presenter.
- ♦ During the week of January 23rd, YES Program staff assisted students who needed help completing the Work Readiness section of their Senior Portfolio. A daily workshop was held to get all the seniors caught up on their projects.
- ♦ The YES Program received a grant from the Worldwide Soccer Academy to implement a soccer program, which will run during the summer months, at the Academy.
- ♦ Six students received training on Opportunity Passport, a financial literacy program for current Academy students and alumni, on February 16th. These students will enroll in the program and be eligible for matching dollars to their savings account. These new enrollments will bring the program participation to 40 students.
- ♦ On February 23rd, 25 students toured Mira Costa College and learned about the majors and classes available in their career and interest areas.
- ♦ The YES Program has been working with the Associated Student Body (ASB) to re-organize the student-run Dragon's Lounge. Staff training and menu development are two activities taking place, as the ASB prepares to re-open the snack bar and student store! Look for a new, improved menu featuring smoothies, healthy snacks, and a staff favorite...coffee!

Alumni Housing Program...

- ♦ Twenty young adults were participating in the Alumni Housing Program. Of the 20 participants, five reside at their college during the school year and return to campus for weekends and school breaks.
- ♦ Ten of the participants are enrolled in college, nine are employed and one is job searching.
- ♦ Interior and exterior upgrades and home improvements continue to be made to the alumni houses.
- ♦ The Program Coordinator is working with County ILS HOME Program staff to identify participants who may be ready to transition into off-campus housing.
- ♦ Academy seniors expected to graduate in June 2006 have been submitting applications to the Alumni Housing Program. Students have demonstrated significant interest in the support services available to them upon emancipation.

Health and Wellness...

- ◆ The campus nurse presented hygiene education in the homes throughout January.
- ◆ Nutrition planning, grief counseling, and sexual health counseling were among the services provided by the Health and Wellness Center Coordinator and campus nurse to individual students.
- ◆ On January 11th, a doctor from UCSD Pediatric Department provided training on stress management to 14 students.
- ◆ Three students consistently participate in the karate class offered every Wednesday from 3:30 4:30 p.m.
- ◆ February 9th marked the first weekly Yoga class taught by a certified Yoga instructor, who is volunteering to lead both students and staff in creating a union of the body, mind, and soul. Participation continues to increase each week.
- ◆ Fifteen students participated in a snowboarding trip to Mountain High with the County of San Diego's Department of Parks and Recreation on February 11th. The students earned this trip for their hard work on a community service project on January 21st, in which they removed non-native plants and planted native plants at Felicita Park.
- ◆ On February 14th, four students watched "Mad Hot Ballroom," which documents fifth graders at four public schools in New York City who participate in ballroom dance classes. The fifth graders prepare for and compete in a final dance competition, demonstrating the benefits of involvement and dance on youth.
- ◆ On February 27th, approximately 50 students and staff attended the on-campus performance of Heart Love Messages of the Soul by local artist Sherehe Yamaisha Roze. The performance is a cultural experience, exploration, and exultation through dance, music and the spoken word. Sherehe, who shared her insightful poetry, was accompanied by Ishe and Verdell performing original music and song, and Aisha entertaining with incredible dance.
- ◆ During February, the Teen Pass program at 24-Hour Fitness began. Students have been signing up and working out at least twice a week at the 24-Hour Fitness Center in Escondido to earn an additional 90-day membership. At least half of the Academy students have signed up with 24-Hour Fitness.
- ◆ Two game bikes were installed in the Health and Wellness Center in February. The game bikes are stationary workout bikes that have PlayStation 2 controllers attached to them. In order to play the video game, the students must pedal bringing together exercise and fun!
- ◆ Three students have committed to train for the March 25th Race for Autism with the Health and Wellness Center Coordinator

San Pasqual Academy Neighbors (An Intergenerational Mentoring Program)...

- ♦ Basketball topped the list of activities the grandparents participated in during January and February. The grandparents have attended several Dragon basketball games and Grandpa Howard has even attended a few practices. The grandparents are very supportive of “their” sports teams and enjoy cheering on the students.
- ♦ At the monthly grandparents' dinner, there was a discussion about further integrating the SPAN program with the school to make a greater impact on the students' lives.
- ♦ Grandma Kay began tutoring some of the students in January.
- ♦ Grandpa and Grandma Nichols assisted boys in House #8 to plan, shop and prepare their independent living skills meal, which they shared together. They have also been working with the Wellness Center Coordinator to develop a Wellness Health Fair.
- ♦ Grandma Joan continues to cook with the students and has added carrot cake to their repertoire. She also continues to make pillows for the students and has made well over 200 pillows so far!
- ♦ Grandparents Howard, Jackie, Jean, Kellie, Donna and Kay have been involved in the planning the new Agriculture Program on campus. In particular, they have been participating in the planning committee for the Agriculture Program Open House on March 15th.
- ♦ Grandma Jane has been spending plenty of time with the crafts class on Wednesday nights with an average of five students participating each night.
- ♦ Grandma Jean has been joining students for lunch two to three times a week. In addition, her poetry slams continue to be popular, drawing four to eight students per session. The students visit Grandma Jean's home to read poetry and watch educational films. Most recently, they watched a documentary on Mohammed Ali.



For more information about how you can help the Academy with donations or volunteer opportunities, please call Debby Syverson at (619) 435-4557.

Go Dragons!